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DEADLINE FOR 1981 ISSUES

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ABOUT THE COVER

Mayor Dianne Feinstein of Francisco presents our new President, Emily Johnson, with an A of Merit after conducting install ceremonies in the Mayor's O Ms. Johnson is the first woman to serve as president in the entire year history of the AFLA.

—photo by M. H.

Editorial

A glance at our masthead will inform our readers of the new editorial staff of AMERICAN FENCING. Since our former editor, Emily Johnson, has now become president of the AFLA (she is truly a glutton for punishment), we shall attempt to carry on where she left off. We welcome the talents of Dwight Chew, our new Business Manager, who will take care of our financial and advertising matters. We retain our Art Director, Diane King, who seems quite able to put together in intelligible form a veritable pot-pourri of articles, photos, announcements, notices, and ads. Our venerable Policy Board, in addition to the new President, now consists of Bill Latzko, our Treasurer; Eleanor Turney, our Secretary; Ralph Goldstein; Dwight Chew; and myself. With the exception of Diane, we are all "volunteers," but we will strive to turn out a semi-professional product.

With this issue, our style may change but our objectives remain the same: to publish an informative magazine for all types of American fencers and to promote an understanding of our favorite sport among interested readers. Bearing this in mind, we look forward to your continued support, suggestions, and contributions. —MTH

The 1981 MACCABIAH GAMES

by Maxwell R. Garret

The 11th Maccabiah Games will be held in Israel from July 6-16, 1981. It is anticipated that 31 sports will be featured with representatives from 35 countries participating. It is expected that over 2800 athletes will be present. Athletes will be housed according to their sport and not according to national affiliation. Thus, all the fencers will be housed at Wingate Institute, Israel's national coaching and physical education school. Here is an opportunity for Jewish athletes from all over the world to meet in Israel.

continued page 6

From the President

by Emily Johnson



It seems somewhat absurd to start a column with a list of names and addresses but I want everyone to know right off who to get in touch with in a particular area. If you contact the correct person to start with, your letter will have a better chance of avoiding the cracks in the floor of the Post Office.

Micki Conte, executive vice president, 1208 Venice Boulevard, Venice, Ca. 90291, is in charge of publicity. If you have a suggestion, an important contact, want to help, or want some help, contact her directly.

William A. Goering, 6615 Glenway Drive, West Bloomfield, Mi. 48033, is the Chairman of the Fencing Officials Commission. If you have a question about officiating, directors' testing, or the rules, you can write to him. He will either answer you directly or assign it to one of the members of the Commission. However, everything will run a lot more easily if you will go through "channels". For example, it is up to the sectional chairman to ask about the assignment of an official from the commission to give directors tests at the sectionals, not an individual fencer. Ask the Sectional Chairman first.

Charles Thompson, Vice-president, 1115 Belvedere Drive, Hanahan, S. C. 29410, is working on a special project for the Officials Commission.

Colleen Olney, Vice-president, 2221 SE 117th, Portland, Oregon 97216, is in charge of the Junior and Grass Roots Development Committee. This is entirely too much work for any one person to be saddled with. The committee will be subdivided as soon as feasible. However, at the moment— Colleen is very knowledgeable in this field. She has long been one of the mainstays of the Junior Olympic Committee. She has been in charge of the Coaches' Clinic at Squaw Valley (this year there were 31 student coaches for a 5 day camp) and has worked with the junior camp ever since it started. She believes, as we all do, that there should be similar camps all over the country. Such camps are primarily a function of the local divisions and sections. We at the national level assist, coordinate, advise and, possibly, help out financially.

It's a big job and she needs help, help. If you care about fencing and want it grow, then lend a hand. But please volunteer if what you really intend is to your name listed as a member of a con and not do any work. That is bad for the pressure of those who do work - who a busy.

This is an ideal place for you recreational fencers to get involved. Fencing isn't those who compete. It's for all of us who proud to be able to support our great who are proud to be members of an club, the AFLA.

Nag. Nag. Nag.

Eleanor Turney, National Secretary Curtis St., Albany, Ca. 94706, does even a National Secretary has to do, an incredible variety. One of her more difficult jobs is keep track of all of you movers. She has me to remind you that the Post Office do forward magazines, if you leave a change address at the Post Office. A Post person tears off the cover page and sends to her with the new address. This costs \$.25 and you don't get your magazine are not entitled to snarl at the AFLA have moved and have not received magazine unless you have removed the address label from an old magazine awarded it to her complete with your new correct address well in advance of the mailing date. You can use a Post Office forwarding post card, a letter or a carrier pigeon long as she gets it ASOP. (It was years before I learned that this meant as s possible. I was under the impression was Russian slang).

William J. Latzko, Treasurer, 213 Street, North Bergen, N.J. 07047 is tight with the AFLA money. He do pay any unauthorized bills.

Michel Mamlouk, 1127 15th Street Washington, D. C. 20005 is our F Secretary. He is the man to contact for foreign trips, the international calendar by foreign athletes and the like.

Mary Huddleson, 2201 Bywood Drive land, Ca 94102 is Editor of American

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ing. Send her your photographs, articles, announcements, results and requests for advertising rates.

And then there is me, your President, 1250 Ellis St., #11, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. What does the President do other than write urging everyone to join the AFLA and work on behalf of the League? A lot of everything. I have to keep track of what is going on, establish and push programs, work with all the other volunteers, utter encouraging noises, coordinate activities, work with other organizations including the USOC, whatever I feel is necessary to promote AFLA fencing.

I welcome letters. I don't even mind the "Dear Sir, you cur" ones if there are good ideas in them. I prefer letters to phone calls because I frequently forget to take notes of what was said and if I do remember to jot down what was said my notes are usually illegible. Letters I can mull over.

There are many other hard-working members of the League whose names have not been included either because they work in a local area or because only a limited number would have occasion to correspond with them.

The meeting of the Board of Directors will be held next month. I will comment in my next

column on what transpired at the meeting. In the meantime, good luck and good fencing.

1981 MACCABIAH GAMES (continued)

The U.S. Maccabiah Fencing Games Committee is co-chaired by Julia Jones Pugliese and Maxwell R. Garret. Since selection of the U.S. fencing team must be completed by January 15, 1981, all interested Jewish fencers are urged to submit their application to Professor Julia Jones Pugliese 176 East 17th Street New York, New York 10021.

Final selection of the twelve (12) fencers - three (3) in each weapon - will be made prior to January 15, 1981 following the last Olympic trial competition held in 1980.

Cornell University has announced that two of its new inductees to the **Cornell Athletic Hall of Fame** are Olympic fencer Richard Pew, who was fourth in epee at the 1956 Games in Melbourne, and his coach, the late Georges Cointe, head trainer of the 1956 Olympic Crew as well as Cornell fencing coach from 1935-61. Under Cointe in 1955, Cornell won the IFA three-weapon championship.

THE 1980 MOSCOW OLYMPICS

Editor's note: The following two articles present somewhat differing views of the Moscow Olympics. Irwin Bernstein is our recent Past-President of the AFLA and Richard Gradkowski is a former Assistant Editor of AMERICAN FENCING.

REFLECTIONS ON A TRIP TO MOSCOW

by Irwin Bernstein

During the tumultuous months that preceded by boycott of the 1980 Summer Olympics by the U.S. Olympic Committee, it was clearly established, in discussions with our government, that continuity of participation in international federations remained a vital objective of all our sports. With this in mind, John Lyons and I represented the AFLA at the Congress of the FIE held in Moscow during the Olympic Games and stayed on for the first portion of the Games. The U.S. Olympic Committee provided the air fare to demonstrate its full support for such activities.

The Olympic Organizing Committee and the Russian Fencing Federation did an outstanding job of staging the Games and providing the visiting athletes and officials with as comfortable and convenient a stay as possible. The fencing events were run under ideal conditions with regard to strips, electronic scoring and timing (even the "coin toss" for sabre priority was conducted electronically), lighting, electronic scoreboard for spectators, almost instantaneous printing of pool results for officials (in English as well as French and Russian), and other auxiliary facilities. Similar preparations were also evident at the other events we attended. With all of this, however, there was a cold atmosphere because of the ever-present, overbearing security, as well as the obvious absence of so many fine fencers from countries not fully participating. The boycott was probably more effective in fencing than in some of the other sports because of decisions aside from the well known ones of the Olympic Committees of the U.S.A., West Germany, Canada, China, and Japan. For example, although Switzerland participated in the Olympics, their fencers did not and although Italy participated their

military was not permitted to do so and Italian fencing team was severely completed, with 1976 Foil Champion Dal Zc among the missing.

The western European approach to boycott was dramatically evident in fencing. The second final, Women's Individual was won by Pascale Trinquet of France. Instead of the customary raising of flag and playing of the French national anthem the winner's flag pole had the International Olympic Committee flag and it was the French anthem that was played (after a hurried search for the music). Similar steps were also taken in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies when many of the western delegations did not march or show their flags.

John and I were most warmly received at the FIE Congress and as observers at fencing events. With our participation, the Congress elected Chaba Pallaghy to the FIE Executive Committee, a position of considerable influence and of great potential value to our continued progress internationally. We also had the opportunity to spend time with the organizers of the 1984 World Championships as well as the 1984 Olympic Fencing in order to obtain personal insights into their planning and preparation as a preliminary to 1984 Olympic planning.

As VIP visitors, we were naturally spared much of the usual formalities and "red tape" that regular travelers to Russia encounter. It was still very apparent, however, that as Americans entering Russia we were really visiting another world. The regimentation, the military and police presence, the self-conscious reaction of people when one tried to extend a conversation beyond the purely routine, all demonstrated that the police state atmosphere was clearly present even as outward manifestations of hospitality and "best Olympic behavior" were being pressed upon us. When we were able to penetrate beneath the surface, we sometimes found very warm human reactions, but it took a good deal of effort.

The city of Moscow itself is quite impressive. The buildings tend to be massive with ample space around them for trees and foliage. Many of the m

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thoroughfares are very wide with a few having as many as 12 traffic lanes. There were relatively few private cars but an enormous public transportation system of buses, trolleys, and subway. Our Olympic credentials gave us free access to public transportation as well as the use of the frequent special Olympic buses that moved among the Olympic venues. The Moscow Metro is a magnificent facility with very frequent trains and beautiful, museum-like stations. With a map and some assistance from other riders we were able to use the Metro for independent traveling and thus see more of the civilian population, whose technique for getting onto crowded subway trains ranks well against the best of New Yorkers!

If I could project our experience to 1984, I would foresee at least two major differences. I would not expect the Los Angeles Olympics to mobilize the personnel to put 16,000 dancers and gymnasts on the field for the Opening Ceremonies demonstration (nor a soldier under every other tree surrounding the stadium) but I would expect the athletes and officials from all over the World to find as well staged and efficiently run an Olympics that is, at the same time, more enjoyable than the 1980 Games.

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FENCING RESULTS From the Moscow Olympics

Men's Foil (36 entries from 15 countries):

1) V. Smirnov, USSR, 4v-1d (1/1, +12); 2) P. Joliot, FRA, 4v-1d (1/1, +7); 3) A. Romankov, USSR, 4v-1d (1/1, +3); 4) S. Ruziev, USSR, 2v-3d; 5) P. Kuki, ROM, Ov-5d.

Men's Foil Team (9 entries)

1) France; 2) USSR; 3) Poland; 4) German D.R.; 5) Romania, 6) Hungary.

Women's Foil (33 entries from 14 countries):

1) P. Trinquet, FRA, 4v-1d; 2) M. Maros, HUN, 3v-2d (+6); 3) B. Wysoczanska, POL, 3v-2d (+1); 4) E. Stahl, ROM, 2v-3d (-2/21); 5) B. Latri-Gaudin, FRA, 2v-3d (-2/22); 6) D. Vaccaroni, ITA, 1v-4d.

Women's Foil Team (9 entries)

1) France, 2) USSR; 3) Hungary; 4) Poland; 5) Italy; 6) Cuba.

Sabre (30 entries from 13 countries)

1) V. Krovopuskov, USSR, 4v-1d (v5-3); 2) M. Burtsev, USSR, 4v-1d; 3) I. Gedovari, HUN, 3v-2d, 4) V. Etropolski, BUL, 2v-3d; 5) K. Etropolski, BUL, 1v-4d (-2); 6) M. Maffei, ITA, v-4d (-6).

Sabre Team (8 entries)

1) USSR; 2) Italy; 3) Hungary; 4) Poland; 5) Romania; 6) German D.R.

Epee (42 entries from 16 countries)

1) J. Harmenberg, SWE, 4v-1d; 2) E. Kolozonay, HUN, 3v-2d (+4); 3) P. Riboud, FRA, 3v-2d (+3); 4) R. Edling, SWE, 3v-2d (+2); 5) A. Muzaev, USSR, 1v-4d (-4); 6) I. Popa, ROM, 1v-4d (-6).

Epee Team (11 entries)

1) France; 2) Poland; 3) USSR; 4) Romania; 5) Sweden; 6) Czechoslovakia.

1980 OLYMPICS CAPSULE REPORT

by Richard Gradkowski

The recently built Central Army Sports Complex on Leningradsky Prospekt was the site of the fencing at the 22nd Olympics. Seventeen fully equipped new copper strips were laid out, with the usual raised center piste for the finals. Accommodations for spectators were excellent, with a clear view of the entire area.

FOIL INDIVIDUAL:

The foil event featured good solid fencing with the technical level rather higher than at the last Olympics in Montreal. There were far fewer simultaneous attacks and the close up twisting style of infighting seems to have passed out of fashion. Superb distance control, clear and decisive actions, and reprises of attacks were predominant. An unfortunate accident between the Soviet Lapitsky and a Polish fencer resulted in a broken blade's passing 70 cm. into Lapitsky's body, although the vital organs were spared. *Editor's Note: Lapitsky is reported to have recovered.*

In the final of six left-handers, O-

beat his teammates Romankov and Ruziev and lost only to Joliot. Ex-World Junior and Senior Champion Romankov then defeated Joliot 5-4 to tie things up for a three way barrage. In the barrage Romankov avenged his earlier loss to Smirnov 5-4, Smirnov then crushed Joliot 5-0, and in the last bout Joliot roared back to destroy Romankov 5-0. The three way tie had to be resolved by the total touch count of both the pool and barrage.

FOIL TEAM:

The first round of the foil team competition saw Cuba and Hungary fight to an 8-8, 58-58 dead tie for a "match null". France then defeated both teams by the score of 10-6, but since the Hungarians received 63 touches and the Cubans 67 touches, Hungary qualified while Cuba was eliminated. In the direct elimination round, a new East German team confirmed its mettle (2 of the 3 individuals reached the direct elimination) by beating Romania and advancing to the ranks of the top four.

The final was a very exciting match. The French had lost Pietruska because of an ankle injury and fielded Joliot, Flament Boscherie, and Bonnin, against Smirnov, Romankov, Ruziev, and Karagian. After nine bouts, the Soviets led by 6-3, but in an unusually gutsy comeback, the French fought back, winning four in a row and evening up the score finally at 8-8 with an 8 touch lead. The combat was of a very high order, with great concentration and with half the bouts going to "la belle".

WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL:

The women's fencing also seemed of a much higher quality than in the past, with cleaner and better controlled actions and much less of the ugly jabbing which has been so characteristic. An interesting sidelight was the presence of Galina Gorokova, the new President of the Soviet Fencing Federation and of Madame Demaille, ex-world champion, who was the Captain of the French fencing team.

In the individual event, all three of the favored Soviets, Belova, Sidorova, and Gilizova went in the direct elimination round. Ex-World Under 20 Champion Pascale Trinquet fenced steadily losing only her last bout to Wysoczanska. When Stahl defeated Maros, Trinquet's title was

WOMEN'S TEAM:

The first round of the Women's event saw Great Britain (Wrigg Brannon, Grant, Martin, Cawthor) Hungary by 8-8, 58-61, while German women lost to Cuba by 8-8, 67-68. Italy and the U.S.S.R. defeated Romania. France then rolled to take the Gold medal decisively U.S.S.R.

SABRE INDIVIDUAL:

The sabre field was hotly contested difficult right from the start. The level of sabre fencing has also with far fewer double actions, even the best sabre men are still a level of the former greats such as lowski and Karpati. Along with the progress in fencing technique nations are finding their way to levels. Three Bulgarians reached elimination and two, the Etropo Vassili and Cristo, both made the

The final started slowly with Macing brilliantly but getting some Defending Olympic Champion Krovopuskov lost 4-5 to his teammate Burtsev then fenced steadily for the remainder of the pool. When Gedovari in turn beat Krovopuskov won his second Gold medal.

SABRE TEAM:

The first round of the sabre team produced some real shocks. Romania defeated the U.S.S.R. 9-7 and then, exhausted, to Cuba 7-9. The Soviets then took Cuba 10-5 to qualify. Bulgaria and Germany fought to an 8-8, 63-63 "match null". Poland first defeated the G.D.R. 60 touches and then beat Bulgaria 9-7. Thus the Bulgarians, who placed second in the individual final, were eliminated with two touches. Italy beat Hungary by a usual score of 8-7, being so far ahead on touches that the last bout of the team was not fenced. Hungary then scored 9-7 past the G.D.R. before falling 60-48 to the U.S.S.R. In the final, the Soviets crushed the Italians, with Macing only sabreman able to win any bout.

The F.I.E. used a new electronic device similar to the extension device used in the 1976 Olympics.

nultaneous (and the warning for the ut) the light was changed to a red color. Then priority was called for, the orekeeper turned on a random flashing vice which determined which side got e priority.

'EE INDIVIDUAL:

As usual the Epee was the largest field. e high quality of the recent past was stained, although no individually brilliant rformance stood out. In the final Johan armenberg (formerly 1974 IFA Foil rampion from M.I.T.) won his first four utes. When his teammate Edling, using or tactics, lost to the Hungarian iczonay 5-1, the title was settled.

'EE TEAM:

In the first round Italy was not able to id a full team because of a lack of per- nnel and a tough Finnish squad lost a atch with Hungary 8-8, 53-67. In the ict eliminations the favorite Sweden was icked into the bottom four by Poland 6. The French steamroller literally ushed all opposition; Romania fell 9-6, wait 16-0, Czechoslovakia 9-3, U.S.S.R. 3, and finally Poland 8-4, to capture the old.

Having observed intimately the fencing

at the past six Olympics I feel in a position to make some evaluation of the scene in Moscow. The effect of the Carter boycott was negligible in fencing. The only formidable team missing entirely was West Germany. In Epee, Switzerland might have altered the balance slightly. Italy and Great Britain did not send full teams. No other significant team was missing. Thus, despite the slightly smaller field than usual, there was no loss of quality. In fact, the small entry characteristic of the Olympics (only three men per nation) makes the competition more intensive and fierce right from the start. There seemed to be an atypically high amount of ankle injuries, possibly because of the brand new copper mesh. The fencers themselves tended to be very young and extremely athletic and fit. The highlight of the Moscow Olympics was, without doubt, the renaissance of French fencing. Four gold medals out of eight, earned with head-on elan, signal a new era of excellence in French fencing. Make no mistake, the Soviets are as good as ever, but the rest of the world is catching up. All in all, despite the depressing political atmosphere, the organization of the competition was superb and the fencing a pleasure to watch.

TECHNIQUE WITHOUT TACTICS IS A DEAD END

By Stanislav Bardakh - (Translated by Leonid Dervbinsk)

INTRODUCTION

The National Fencing Championship in New York was the first U.S. Nationals I ever saw and I would like to share my impressions about it. I was pleasantly surprised when I saw practically three generations fencing together and counting Senior Olympics I had a chance to see four generations of American fencers. A great number of participants were in very good physical shape and showed diverse technical skills.

However, fencing history demonstrates that the ability to execute a cut or touch under bout conditions, no matter how technically perfect, is very often not the most important component of showing highly consistent results. As a rule the one who is stronger tactically wins; i.e. the execution of one's action, carried out on the basis of one's understanding, shows one's tactical level.

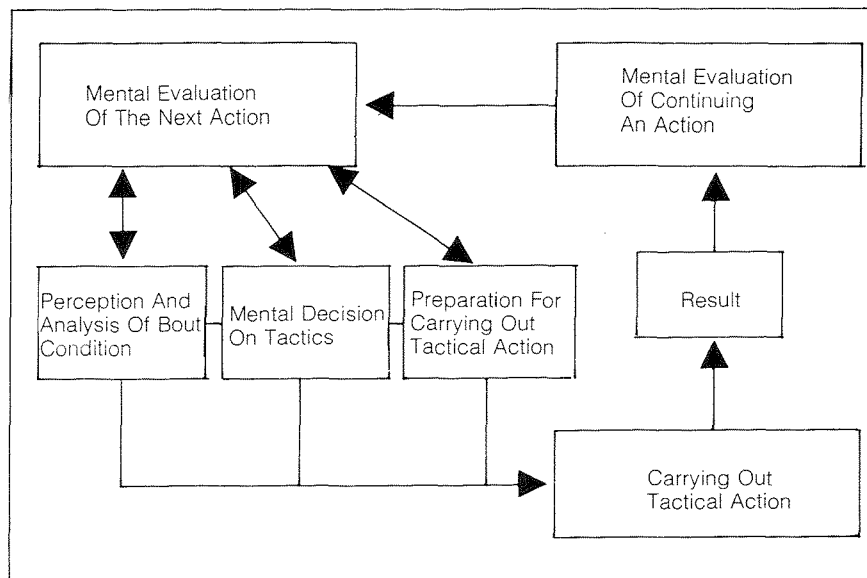
Many athletes fence on so called "bout sense". I define "bout sense" as a fencing

based on one's sharpness, alertness and quickness as consequences of one's intuition, without winning by thinking. There exists another notion similar to "bout sense." It is the notion of "fencing on vision". This method of fencing is based on fencer reacting to something on sensation that which he/she has seen during the bout, or using "blade feeling". If a fencer relies mainly on the quickness of his/her reflexes, this method completely releases fencer from doing any premeditated actions. It is a mistake to consider these two methods as tactics.

Only when an athlete studies his/her shortcomings will he/she be able to get rid of them. If one has a goal, one has to attempt to use fully accumulated knowledge and experience of other leading coaches and fencers. One's winning or losing will depend on that. With this in mind it is necessary to have correct balance between volume and intensity of the training process

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Let's call the logical connection between the elements of movement "tactical thinking" (mentality)." As athletes perfect themselves, the means and methods of their training process change and at the same time "tactical thinking" matures, including concentration. Specific problems appear and are resolved in the course of many years of training. And it is disappointing if an athlete having all the necessary characteristics approaches the problems of training in a simple minded mechanical way; i.e., by only perfecting technique and increasing the training load. The latter will not insure successful training. Further growth has to be achieved by perfecting the integration of his/his physical, technical, tactical and psychological training. While watching fencers during a competition it is possible to determine the level of their technical skills; is it not similarly possible to determine the level of their **tactical** skills?

"Tactical thinking" can be understood as a theory of conducting a fencing bout. This theory is inseparably connected with the techniques of fencing. "Tactical thinking" in a fencing bout represents special

skills to conduct a fight in a conflict situation, taking into consideration the opponents' actions, intentions, technical and individual abilities.

"Tactical thinking" is a goal-oriented searching system among many possible solutions which chooses the most suitable one in the specific bout conditions for the best results.

In a bout each fencer must reflect on the thinking action of his/her opponent. This is represented systematically by phases:

"Tactical Thinking" is perfected by practicing on specially directed tasks in the individual lessons, doing exercises with a partner, and also in bout practices where most typical versions of an opponent's behavior are selected.

To Be Continued

Mr. Bardakh coaches and teaches fencing at various clubs and universities in the New York City area. He was a physical education and fencing instructor in Odessa, USSR and, for almost ten years previous to his arrival in the U.S. last year, he was Head Instructor of Fencing Program at the State Olympic Sports School in Odessa. He has the title of "Honored Coach of the Soviet Union."

1980 METROPOLITAN WOMEN'S EPEE OPEN SABRE OPEN

By Denise O'Connor

Chair, National Women's Epee and Sabre Committee

History was made at 9:45 P.M. on June 27 at Manhattan College when Dr. Jane Littmann defeated Peggy Walbridge 5-2 in her last bout of the final round to win the Metropolitan Women's Epee Open and an "A" classification. Dr. Littmann, who represents the Palmetto Fencing Society of the Piedmont Division, is the first and only Class "A" female epee fencer in the world. A Professor of Clinical Psychiatry at the William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute in Columbia, South Carolina, Dr. Littmann was the winner of the 1979 Western Classic Women's Epee held at the site of the AFLA National Championship in Colorado Springs.

Christina Massiala, representing the Pannonia Athletic Club, defeated 1975 N.I.W.F.A. Intercollegiate Foil Champion, Peggy Walbridge, Cornell Fencing Club, in a fence-off for second. Both women were awarded "B" classifications. Marlene Adrian, Lewis and Clark, placed fourth on indicators over Texan, Lois Goldthwaite. Twenty year old, Tracy Yelton, Salle Sebastiani, a member of the 1980 World Junior Team and sixth place finalist in the women's foil final, placed sixth in the epee event.

Ruth Botenran, California State-Northridge, suffered one loss to Cat Davis in the final round of the Metropolitan Women's Sabre Open in winning the event and a "B" classification. In a three way tie for second place, Jane Littmann was awarded the silver medal followed by Barbara Higgins of the Miami International Fencing Club and Cat Davis, New York Fencers Club. Miss Davis currently reigns as the World's Women's Boxing Champion. Lois Goldthwaite placed fifth and Diane Knoblach of San Jose State University, sixth.

78 women participated in the epee event and 48 in the sabre.

Jane Littmann and Lois Goldthwaite have been finalists in the epee and sabre events held at the site of the last three AFLA National Championships.

The First Women's Epee National Championship will be held in Fort Worth next June.

All participants must qualify through their divisions. Women's sabre will continue as a open event.

Epee: J. Littmann 4-1; C. Massiala 3-2 +3, 17TR; P. Walbridge 3-2, +3 17TR; M. Adrian 2-2, 0; L. Goldthwaite 2-2, -5; T. Yelton 1-5 (Fence-off: Massiala def. Walbridge 2-5.)

Sabre: R. Botenran 4-1; J. Littmann 3-2 +9; B. Higgins 3-2, 0; C. Davis 3-2 -1; L. Goldthwaite 2-2; D. Knoblach 1-5.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

The 1980 Annual Meeting of the membership of the AFLA was held June 28, 1980 in Draddy Gym Room #210 Manhattan College Bronx, New York. The meeting was called to order by Executive Vice President William A. Goering at 4:10 PM. Officers present: William A. Goering, Executive Vice President; Eleanor Turney Secretary; Emily Johnson, President elect; William Latzko Treasurer elect.

There were 15 members present with 2 proxies,

1. The minutes were approved as published in the September/October 1979 issue of the American Fencing Magazine. Volume 31 #1. by voice vote.

2. Report of Officers and Committee. There were no reports given.

3. Proposed amendments to By-Law. There were no By-Laws for consideration.

4. Elections: Results of the Elections held for the 1980-82 term. Emily Johnson, President; Micki Conte, Executive Vice President; Charles Thompson, Vice President; Colleen Olney, Vice President; Eleanor Turney, Secretary; William Latzko, Treasurer.

— THE MION POINTS —



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surer; Chaba Pallaghy, National Director. The membership accepted the report of the election by voice vote.

5. Old Business: There was no old business.

6. New Business: The meeting was open for membership discussion of League operation and comments from the new officers. Emily Johnson, President elect, suggested that the outgoing administration should be appreciated with thanks for their past services. It was moved seconded and passed that there be a "Vote of appreciation and thanks to the outgoing administration of the AFLA"

The President elect announced possible future appointments as follows. Executive Vice President, Micki Conte: Publicity; Vice President, Charles Thompson: Directors Commission; Vice President, Colleen Olney: Grass Roots and Joy Committee; Irwin Bernstein, Ex-President: Executive Committee; Stephen Sobel: Counsel; Carla-Mae Richards: Sites and Selection Committee; Dr. Marius Valsamis: Medical Commission; William A. Goering: Executive Committee

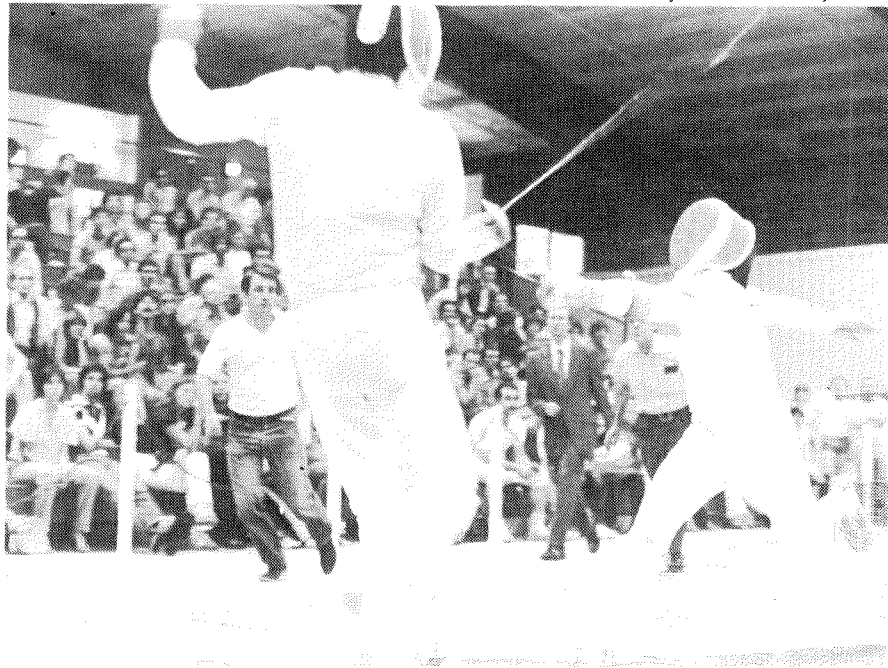
and Chairman of the Directors Commission.

The President elect invited all members to give their suggestions to her for consideration. She stated that the transfer of power from the past to the present administration will be as smooth as possible. She urged that we all work together to make this next administration the best one possible.

The USOC requires and pays the expenses of the AFLA representative to the special FIE meeting to be held at Moscow. Due to the necessity of advance arrangements it is impossible for the President elect to attend the meeting. The prior arrangements of the President to attend will be implemented.

The possible change of qualification to the National Championships was discussed. All members opinions regarding the possible change are solicited. The discussion will be continued at the Annual Board of Directors Meeting to be held in San Francisco September 27, 1980.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 PM
Minutes submitted by Eleanor Turney



1980 U.S. National Championships, photo by Bruce Renko

TOWARD MORE ENJOYABLE SABRE TOURNAMENTS

By Ralph J. T

bout committee to act on appeals for tournament. (The members of the committee should be familiar with the of fencing).

C. Call all participants (competitor: officials) together, announce the make of the bout committee, and announce 10-minute "briefing session" outlining advice to competitors and officials. (This minute "session" should be as part of the beginning of all divisional tournaments as the awards ceremony the end. If we continually remind competitors and officials what we expect them, then - like water dripping on a we shall, in time, make an impression

Read the following advice to the parents (do this yourself or have one of the directors or one of the senior fencers do it you can have a pair of fencers demonstrate some of the points if you wish). This advice covers the points most often squabbled at sabre tournaments and aims at improving the general "tone" of the competition.

TOURNAMENT ADVICE

1. WITH RESPECT TO OFFICIATING
If you are called on to officiate, do best to follow the rules impartially; respect the decisions of others who are also their best.

2. ADVICE TO JUDGES (and directors)

- Stay slightly behind "your" fence follow him up and down the strip.
- Watch for hits on (or near) the guard they end one action and are the start of a **new** action (remise, redouble etc.)
- Watch for whip-overs: if the hit which the attack ends is **closer to the attack is parried** and contact of the attacking blade with the target whip-over; **whip-overs do not count as valid hits.** (do not give handed fencers bonus points by saying "YES" on whipovers.)
- When asked for your vote by the director, limit your responses to NO, ABSTAIN, and OFF TARGET
- Fit what you saw happen into the director's reconstruction of the action

In thinking back over my more than thirty years' experience as a competitor and as an official at sabre tournaments, I note that all too often sabre tournaments leave a residue of bitterness: people who are more or less friendly at the start of the tournament storm out of the hall at the end, vowing never to speak to one another again; some officials, disgusted by the abuse they have been subjected to by the fencers, vow never to officiate again; for the next several days some competitors heatedly explain to anyone who will listen how they were robbed of victories by incompetent or malicious directing and/or judging. With the passage of time the feelings of bitterness fade and everyone arrives at the next tournament hoping that things will be different - sometimes they are and sometimes they aren't. To make our sabre tournaments more enjoyable, we have to work to improve attitudes: to improve the attitude of the fencers toward the judges and directors and to improve the attitude of the officials toward their work. I urge that we make an effort to improve things at the division level; if we straighten things out **here**, matters at the regional and national levels will mostly take care of themselves.

I have some suggestions that I think will lead to more enjoyable divisional sabre tournaments. I organize my suggestions in the form of advice to managers of divisional sabre tournaments - here is that advice.

ADVICE TO MANAGERS FOR MORE ENJOYABLE SABRE TOURNAMENTS

A. Make sure that you arrive at the tournament site with an up-to-date copy of the rulebook and with at least one copy of this ADVICE (bring several copies and lay them out where the fencers can see them; suggest to your divisional executive committee that it mail copies of this ADVICE along with the schedule of events at the start of the fencing season).

B. After the check-in is complete, set up your seats and **set up a three-person**

you absolutely cannot fit it in, abstain - don't "argue" with the director about what happened.

- f) After an action, make up your mind quickly about how you are going to vote (YES, NO, ABSTAIN, OFF TARGET); then stick to your decision - your first impression is usually the most trustworthy one.

3. ADVICE TO DIRECTORS (and fencers)

- a) In analyzing fencing actions, identify them in the manner recommended by the U.S. Fencing Officials Commission (see the GUIDELINES published in American Fencing, May/June 1980).

- b) Distinguish between point in line and stop hit with the point. For the point in line to have priority over an attack, the line must be established **before the attack begins**. An action with the point that is initiated **after** the attack begins is not a point in line, it is a stop hit with the point - to be valid it must **land a full tempo ahead of the landing of the attack**.

- c) Stress the basics

i) The simple attack - the fencer must be reaching out and trying to land a hit (the cutting edge or point must be winging toward the target).

ii) The feint - the fencer must make it seem that he is trying to land a hit (the cutting edge or point must "look like" it is winging toward the target).

iii) Anything that is not a simple attack, a line or a feint is either **preparation or invitation**, and an attack (by the opponent) **on the preparation** has the priority.

- d) Remember that moving forward is not necessarily the same thing as attacking.

i) Those fencers who lunge without cutting are not attacking.

ii) A fencer charging down the strip "carrying" or "showing" his blade or indulging in "windshield wiper" movements with the blade is not attacking.

iii) For an attack with feints (composite attack) to maintain its priority during the execution, it is necessary that the blade show **progression** - that it

continuously get ever closer to the target.

iv) For an action to count as an attack, the fencer must execute it **from within fencing distance - two fencers are within fencing distance if they can touch blades by merely extending their arms** (fencing distance is approximately advance-lunge distance). Closing from out of distance to fencing distance is part of the **preparation**, not part of the attack - while the out-of-distance fencer is closing to within fencing distance, the other fencer has time to establish a point-in-line position if he so desires.

- e) Watch out for actions that bounce off the guard (see item 2. b); call them as two actions - attack or counterattack or whatever and remise.

- f) Remember that an action on the blade (with the exception of the glide-thrust) is **not** part of the attack - it is part of the **preparation**. A properly executed action on the blade gives the user priority for the ensuing attack.

- g) Watch out for sloppy execution. When there is a meeting of the blades, apply the principle of "forte against foible" (forte - lower third of the blade, foible - upper two-thirds of the blade).

i) A "beat" against the forte of the blade does not count as a beat; it is treated as an attack against the blade, followed by a remise or redoublement.

ii) In attempting to deviate a point in line, a "beat" or a "scrape" on the forte of the blade or a prime-parry prise de fer with the weak part of the blade (foible) against the forte of the in-line blade - none of these attempts deviate the blade sufficiently to merit getting the priority for the ensuing attack.

iii) The defending fencer can **escape** from a poorly executed (too slow or too wide) prise de fer and launch an **attack on the preparation**, which has priority.

- h) When there is a meeting of the blades, tell the jury what you saw: for example i) "beat and attack" (the attack has priority); ii) "a taking of the blade and attack" (the attack has

priority); iii) "attack, followed by a remise" (i.e. a badly directed "beat" - the riposte or counterattack has priority); iv) "point in line; an attack on the line, followed by a remise" (i.e. a badly executed attempt to deviate the point in line - the line retains its priority); v) "a meeting of the blades, followed by continuations from both sides" (the principle of "forte to foible" is not clear, so it is only a question of **time** on the continuations: they were either simultaneous or one was initiated clearly ahead of the other).

- j) Pay attention to the strip boundaries: when a fencer steps over the side or the end boundaries line, call "Halt" **immediately**.

- k) Remember where you called "Halt" in an action and don't analyze beyond that point. (For example: if you call "Halt" on an attack, you can allow an immediate riposte since it was presumably initiated simultaneously with the "Halt", but if no touch is awarded on the attack or the riposte, you should not continue the analysis into remises or counterripostes since these actions must have been **initiated after the "Halt"**.)

- l) Enforce the rules - apply the appropriate penalty for each and every infraction of the rules.

4. ADVICE TO FENCERS

- a) If the director misquotes or misapplies the rules or if he adds up the votes of the jury incorrectly, call the matter to his attention and get the point settled **immediately** (call in the bout committee, if necessary) - before going on with the fencing.

- b) Do not debate with the director those decisions for which he has **sole responsibility** - the director's decision (even if objectively "wrong") is final. Accept these occasional officiating "malfunctions" with good grace; put your energies into fencing, not into complaining.

- c) If a director **consistently** misapplies the rules, if you are **sure** that an official (judge or director) is showing bias or favoritism toward some fencers - in either case, register a complaint with

the bout committee and let the committee handle the matter.

D. After conducting the 10-minute "session", announce the pools and get tournament going. If any complaints or tests come up during the fencing, them to your bout committee.

E. At the end of the tournament, you call everyone together for the award ceremony, call for a vote of thanks from officials and helpers (directors, judges, scorekeepers, timekeepers, and members of the bout committee). Try to get an old tradition set up (with some help from your divisional executive committee or senior fencers) whereby the winner of the tournament, after getting his award, calls for a vote of thanks for the management of the competition.

(We must keep reminding the fencers they owe to the manager and the officials and the helpers.)

If you will follow this advice and **always** conduct to 10-minute "session" at the end of each sabre tournament, you can expect in time, to see improvement in sportsmanship of the competitors, increased alertness of the officials, and in the element for all concerned of your sabre tournaments.

The above article has been approved by the AFLA Officials Commission. Mr. Tykodi is Professor of Chemistry and Assistant Fencing Coach at Southeastern Massachusetts University, North Dartmouth, Mass.



AN APPRECIATION OF MAESTRO MENYHERT KADAR

By Alan R...



1980 National Championships, Men's Foil Finals, Greg Massialas (left) photo by Bruce Repko

CALENDAR OF MAJOR EVENTS IN THE U.S.: 1980 - 1981

DATE	EVENT	N. AM. CIRCUIT	PLACE	WEAPON
Dec. 7	Kadar Open	XX	Cleveland, OH	S
Dec. 7	Csiszar Open	XX	Phila., PA	E
Dec. 13	Michel Alaux	XX	New York, NY	WF
Dec. 14	Michel Alaux	XX	New York, NY	MF
Jan. 10	D'Asaro Open	XX	San Jose, CA	WF
Jan. 11	D'Asaro Open	XX	San Jose, CA	MF
Jan. 18	Piller Open	XX	New York, NY	S
Feb. 7	Mardi Gras Open	XX	New Orleans, LA	S
Feb. 14-16	National U-20, U-16 Champs.		Cleveland, OH	MF, WF, S, E
Feb. 2/22	Pentathlon Open		San Antonio, TX	E
Mar. 6,7	ECAC Coll. Champs.		Phila., PA	MF,S,E
Mar. 14	Portland Open	XX	Portland, OR	MF
Mar. 14	AIAW Regionals		In AIAW Regions	WF
Mar. 19-21	NCAA Men's Coll. Champs.		U. Wisc.-Parkside	MF,S,E
Mar. 22	Helene Mayer	XX	Oakland, CA	WF
Mar. 27-29	AFLA International		New York, NY	S-"A"
Mar. 28	General Dynamics Open	XX	Los Angeles, CA	E
Mar. 29	General Dynamics Open		Los Angeles, CA	ET
Apr. 2-4	AIAW Wom. Coll. Champs.		Notre Dame, IND	WF
Apr. 12	Csiszar Open	XX	Phila., PA	WF
Apr. 16-20	World Under-20 Champs.		TBA	MF, WF, S, E
Apr. 19	EASTER/PASSOVER			
Apr. 25	Cherry Blossom	XX	Fairfax, VA	MF
Apr. 26	Cherry Blossom	XX	Fairfax, VA	E
Apr. 26	New Jersey Open	XX	New Jersey	S
Jun 20-27	U.S. NATIONAL CHAMPS.		Ft. Worth, TX	
July 2-13	WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS		France	
July 24-29	USOC Sports Festival		Syracuse, NY	

The retirement of Maestro Kadar is a serious loss to fencing. Fencers all over the country have come to know the Maestro and to seek his counsel and assistance and the number of coaches over the years who have called upon the Maestro for advice on their teaching skills, are legion. He has been tireless and unflinchingly willing to help fencers regardless of their affiliation.

Who shall take his place?

Maestro Kadar is that rare coach who was not only trained by a recognized Master, but who proved his skills at the highest level of international competition. How many active coaches are there remaining in the United States today who can claim such a background?

It is of course true that we are fortunate in having so many coaches, particularly amateur coaches, who give generously of themselves to train fencers for competitive fencing. They are particularly effective at the elementary and intermediate levels in providing instruction in basic fencing technique, introducing fencers to notions of fencing tactics and strategies, and inculcating the virtues of physical conditioning.

However, when we move to preparation for participation in major international competition, we aspire to impart to our representatives the highest level of technique and skills. Perhaps we can count the number of instructors equipped for this task on the fingers of one hand.

In domestic competition fencers who possess physical superiority over other competitors may succeed although their technique is faulty. An advantage in "reach," quickness of reflex or speed afoot may be enough for victory. But at the international level, in competition with the members of the teams of the major fencing powers, that "edge" disappears. Our fencers will be meeting opponents who are at least equally physically talented. What is more, they will be up against fencers who are at least equally strongly motivated, equally dedicated and equally clever in the choice of strategy and tactics. Time and again, it has been shown that the decisive factor in a bout is the superiority of the technique of one fencer over the other. And it is here that time

and again our fencers have been found wanting.

Today, too few of our fencing coaches are able to give the kind of "competitive lesson" that is now customary in most of the world's fencing centers. Most coaching in the United States proceeds as an exercise in "shticks." The instructor calls for an action, attempts to correct the fencer's execution of it. Thus, the lesson consists entirely of a series of simple exercises. Typically, each "phrase" in the lesson is limited to one or two actions, for example, a disengage-lunge made by the pupil, a parry and riposte by instructor and a final parry and count riposte by the pupil. There is, of course, value in such exercises, but a lesson consisting only of them is inadequate training for international competition.

There is no way in such a lesson to evaluate and improve a fencer's performance under competitive conditions.

The competitive lesson, by contrast, attempts to simulate the conditions of an actual bout. It consists of the instructor initiating or inviting the initiation of an action by the pupil without announcing the action in advance so that the fencer is required to recognize and respond to the opportunity presented. The lesson incorporates a series of continuous actions executed at high speed. The instructor controls, through superior technique, the practice, noting deficiencies in the fencer's execution—Are movements too wide? Is his riposte delayed? Is his feint too obviously a non-serious threat? Is he too slow in taking advantage of an opponent's error? Is he able to vary his speed and timing appropriately to the situation?

Only a coach with extraordinary ability can successfully conduct such a lesson. Maestro Kadar was one such. How many others do we have? Where shall we obtain more?

In a population of well over 200,000,000 the United States is able to count less than 10,000 active fencers. But we are not likely to significantly expand our base without also expanding our coaching staff. Nor, are we likely to achieve success in international

performance—and by success I mean the winning of a medal in World Championship or Olympic competition—unless we develop or recruit sufficient numbers of coaches capable of training fencers to win at the international level.

The task we face is formidable. The United States is roughly the size of the entire continent of Europe, yet there are more coaches in virtually every one of the major European fencing powers than there are in the entire United States.

Of course, the AFLA has not been oblivious to the problem, and creation of a National Coaching Staff represents one attempt to deal with it. What we haven't had the benefit of, as yet, is a long-range comprehensive plan to provide American fencing with the kind of instructional support that is essential for its development. Such a plan ought to speak in terms of specific goals and of timetables for achieving these goals. It ought to identify with particularity the means we must use and the procedures we must follow.

Never before in the history of American fencing have we had so many financial resources at our disposal as we do now,

thanks to the expanded role of the United States Olympic Committee in supporting development activities. Given our present and expected future funding base, we need to blueprint how we can increase and improve our coaching resources so as to be able to move fencing from an esoteric exercise reserved for the few to a sport participated in by the many. When we have achieved this condition, then we will achieve our share of the glories of international victories.

Our task then is two-fold. To increase the number of fencing coaches throughout the country and to increase the number of our coaches who have the necessary skills to provide instruction at the international competitive level.

The retirement of Menyhart Kadar diminishes our sport. It should also serve to stimulate us to get moving now to assuring that his kind of efforts will be continued and multiplied throughout the country.

Alan Ruben is a former president of the AFLA



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DIRECTING TECHNIQUES

By William Goe

Chairman, Fencing Officials Commission

In a previous article, techniques that apply to all weapons were discussed. Some that are specific to particular weapons are:

• Foil

- Watch the fencers, not the machine. Position yourself to look through the competitors' blades to the machine, but concentrate on the blades. Check yourself frequently to make certain you are not focusing on the lights.
- Find the attack — Analyses for which the President can find the attacker are easily handled. Any movements that are not considered attacks can be dispensed with by the phrase "In the preparation".
- Include priority and result in your analysis — Since the machine decides validity, the President can include this information in the analysis and avoid repeating it. For example, "attack no, riposte yes, remise off target, touch right"; or "attack off target, no touch".
- Use economical terms — It is easier to say "attack, no" than "attack, parried" although the latter is not incorrect. Also "no touch" or "no score" is more precise than "nothing done", since you wouldn't be talking if nothing had occurred. Limit your analyses to the pertinent actions by saying "In the final phrase".

Although analyses are not required when only one light is on, foil Jury Presidents are advised to analyze simple phrases. For example, "attack no, counter attack yes, touch right". These do not waste time, but assist concentration and tend to relax the competitors.

• Sabre

- Watch the competitors' arms — Focus between the weapons as for foil, but since sabre distances are greater, stay somewhat further from the strip.

- Find the attack — See above foil.
- Analyze the complete phrase fore polling jury — Sabre differs from foil in that the analysis touch award are separate. Tell jury your concept of the phrase, not just one action time. Avoid the word parry in analysis, because it may sway judges.
- Identify blade meeting — It is Jury President's job to define attacks or "prise de fer" and must not be left to the judge's creation. For example, the phrase may be analyzed as "attack" or "attack, riposte, remise of attack" depending on the President's concept of the initial blade meeting. Once the President decided, the jury **must** accept President's decision. Even if do not concur with the President's analysis, judges may not abs but must faithfully report the validity of hits.
- Vote on validity — Exercise 1 1/2 votes after polling the jury when you have a definite opinion especially to resolve yes-no conflicts or when only one judge votes and you believe an injustice result.

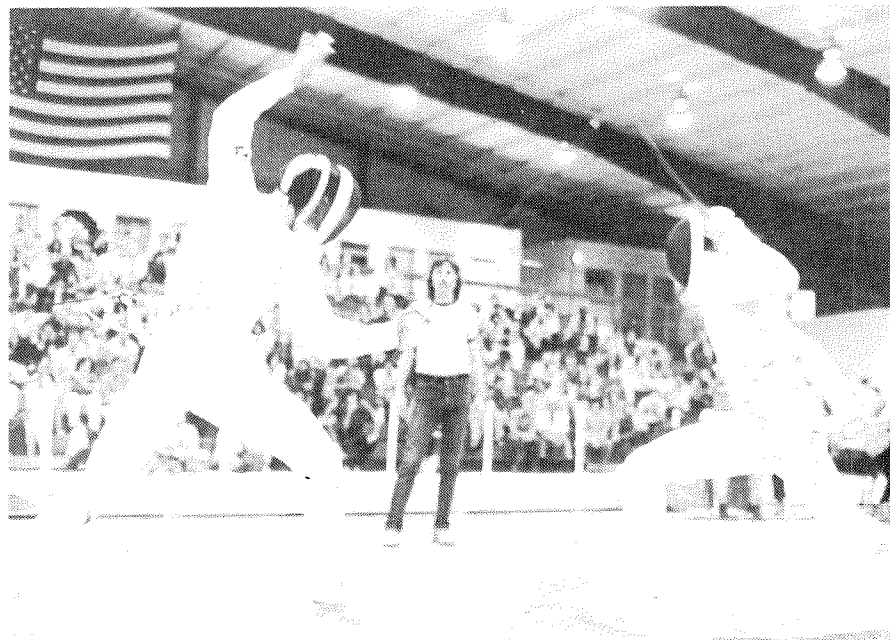
• Epee

- Stay alert — Epee officiating is easy just because there are right-of-way decisions. Instead myriad of technical rules must be applied properly. To stay a focus on the fencing and be prepared to call halt immediately when required.
- Allow the fencers time to see machine after a touch award— not allow the timer or scorekeeper to reset the machine until you "ready" for the next phrase.
- Establish a routine for the equipment check — Since a comp

weapons check is carried out before each bout, a routine speeds the proceeding and gives the competitors confidence.

- Watch the touches off the strip — These are tough to see, especially those made by the fencer leaving the side of the strip.

All of the above techniques will help your officiating, but none is as important as concentration. This cannot be taught, but you must find your own methods to focus on the job at hand and filter out the numerous distractions present at fencing tournaments. Practice is the best teacher. Most officials will find they improve in tournaments that last several days, especially if they think about their techniques and concentration.



'80 National Championships, Manhattan College, Men's Foil Finals, Greg Massaias (right) photo by Bruce Redko

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COMING ATTRACTIONS

KADAR SABRE OPEN

The inaugural KADAR SABRE OPEN will be held Sunday, December 7, 1980 and feature a NATIONAL CIRCUIT MEN'S SABRE event and a WOMEN'S OPEN SABRE event (as a prelude to the Women's Sabre at the 1981 Nationals). The competition will be held in Cleveland, Ohio at the Hollenden House Hotel where a limited number of rooms have been reserved. A dinner party (\$10 to \$15 per person) will be held Saturday night December 6 at 8:00 P.M.

Entries fees are \$10.00 with a \$5.00 late fee for entries received after November 21, 1980. Requests for entry and hotel reservation information should be addressed to Frank P. Nagornéy, 17613 Scottsdale Blvd., Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120 (Phone 216-283-8341 or 216-781-2166). All entries must include (1) name, (2) address, (3)

event, (4) rank/classification, (5) club a tion, (6) check payable to "Kadar Sa Open." Sponsored by the MIDWEST SECTION — AFLA.

CSISZAR OPEN

The Gladius Society and Fencing Tee of the University of Pennsylvania announce the Lajos Csiszar Open Epee Tournament to be held December 6 & 7, 1980 in Hutinson Gym of the University. Since Csiszar Open Epee is on the AFLA National America Circuit, fencers placing high in field will receive AFLA international points.

Fencers holding AFLA international points, current A-ranked fencers and WC U-20 team members will qualify directly the final rounds on December 7. The remainder of the field will be determined qualifying rounds on December 6, with

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KADAR SABRE OPEN ENTRY FORM

Name _____		Club _____	
Address _____			
Event		Rank	
____ Men's Sabre (9:30 A.M.)		_____	
____ Women's Sabre (12:00 P.M.)		_____	
Check in 30 minutes prior to scheduled starting time.			
Hollenden Hotel Reservation: _____ Single (\$29.00)			
_____ Double (\$36.00)			
_____ Dinner (\$10 to \$15)			
<p>\$10 Entry fee (\$5 late fee after Nov. 21, 1980); make check payable to "Kadar Sabre Open" and mail to Frank Nagornéy, 17613 Scottsdale Blvd., Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120.</p> <p><i>"I enter these events at my own risk and release the Midwest Section, the AFLA and/or their sponsors and officials from any liability."</i></p>			
_____			Signature of Fencer

are open to **all** AFLA member competitors, including collegiate, class B, C, and unclassified fencers.

Entry fee is \$10.00. All entries must be postmarked by Nov. 20. Late entries will be accepted **only** for the qualifying rounds, with a \$5.00 late fee. Automatic qualifiers to final rounds (Dec. 7) must enter on time or they will be required to qualify by competing in the preliminary rounds (Dec. 6). To enter, send name, address, phone, classification and club, with check, to

Csizar Open Entries
c/o Dave Micahnik, Fencing Coach
Weightman Hall, E/7
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Make checks payable to: "Gladius Society - Univ. of Pennsylvania." All AFLA rules will be enforced, including masks inspection and proper uniforms. Locker rooms and showers are provided, but fencers should provide towels and locks.

Schedule: Saturday, Dec. 6

9:00 AM	Check in & equipment check
10:00 AM	Fencing begins
7:00-9:00 AM	Equipment check for Sunday competitors

Sunday, Dec. 7

8:30 AM	Check in & equipment check
9:30 AM	Fencing begins

1980 GORGIO SANTELLI TROPHY MEET

The annual Giorgio Santelli Trophy Meet will again be hosted in the spacious facilities of the State University College at Brockport, a few miles west of Rochester, New York. Last year, Todd Kern, from Ohio State received a "C" rating for his first place finish in men's foil, and July Smith, from Penn State, was awarded a "B" rating for winning the women's foil event.

Schedule:

Saturday, 22 November	
Women's Foil	9:00 am
Men's Epee	11:00 am

Sunday 23, November

Men's Foil	9:00 am
Women's Epee	11:00 am

Contact:

Natalie Goodhartz
34 E. Wautoma Beach Rd.
Hilton, New York 14468

716 392-3598 (H)
395-2579 (O)

KANSAS OPEN HALLOWEEN CLASSIC

The Kansas Division and the University of Missouri-Kansas City are sponsoring the **Kansas Open Halloween Classic** to be held on November 1 in Men's Foil and Women's Epee and November 2 in Men's Epee and Women's Foil. The tournament will be held in Swinney Gym on the UMKC campus. The UMKC club will also host a Halloween party on Saturday evening for all fencers. For more information (including housing) contact:

Bill Little (Div. Chmn)
3945 St. John
Kansas City, MO 64123
(816) 231-2461

Kristy Lake (UMKC)
16 W. 37th St., Apt. 12
Kansas City, MO 64111
(816) 931-4858

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For information and entries, send to: Debbie Moyer, 2563 E. San Miguel, Colorado Springs, CO 80909. (303) 471-0526; or Kathy Goodall, 1229 E. LaSalle St., Colorado Springs, CO 80907. (303) 471-7950. Checks payable to COLORADO INVITATIONAL.

Technical Talks

by Joe Byrnes



Not electrical sabre again! For something that isn't even here yet, it does get talked about. However, the race to get an electrical sabre system accepted is heating up again. In fact the present situation, in its own small way, with less money at stake, is beginning to resemble that with home TV recorders, or the way that 45 rpm vs 33 1/3 rpm records had it out years ago.

The system described in one of these columns a few issues back was the only game in town at first, but now has competition. You'll remember (who am I flattering here: you or me?) that the system described then made the whole blade a "hot wire" and anything (traditional cut or counter-cut, or flat slap, or brush past, or you-name-it) would give a signal on the opponent's metallized target. The machine had as many lights as a Christmas tree (8, actually) and showed not only good straight thrusts or cuts, but also any sort of contact with the target that happened at the same time as the opponent's blade met the attacker's: mal-paré, whipover, glide, plaqué, or good thrust against opposition. No off-targets could be shown. Regular foil body cords and sockets are used.

Now there's a whole new system in contention. This one shares the metallized surface and no off-target, but the blade is grooved like an electric foil down the back, with what looks like a conventional foil point at the end (single wire system): that's just for the thrusts. That blade will obviously have to be heavier than most sabre blades have been made recently. I defy anyone to succeed in grinding a groove down the back of the present minimum (1.2 mm) thickness of sabre blade—safely. Cuts will be registered, it seems, by a combination of the blade meeting the opponent's target with a vibration transmitted by a "sensing module" plugged into a special socket inside the sabre guard. The system comes with four such modules, two pairs: one for the fencers on the strip, and the other pair for those on deck, and so on alternately. Foil body cords are also used

and two kinds of socket, or a new dc type, will be needed inside the guard.

The interesting point, about which manufacturer is being rather cagey, is the sending module appears to be sensitive to vibration along the lir genuine old-fashioned cuts or counter cuts, with less likelihood of going off flats, and none of showing mere brush a laid-on blade. That almost does ; with the need for the rewriting of the definition of a sabre cut that was, nevertheless legislated some two years ago (look at article 409 in the Supplement to the Book).

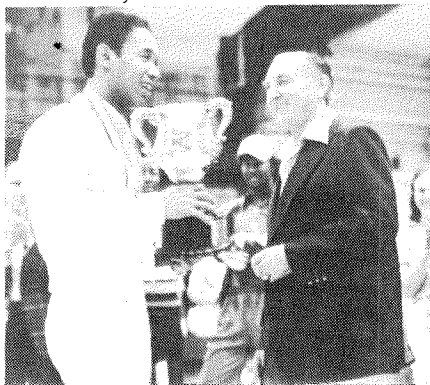
You may ask, what about the mal-paré whipover with this system? Well, a general mal-paré would show as a valid touch that the vibration showing contact would come at the same time as the contact

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the valid surface; the machine is internally adjustable down to very fast time differences—a good deal faster than the double touch in epee, it seems. The machine does it in this system, and the director and the judges are spared sorting out the meaning of all those white lights as in the competing version. As for whipovers, again the machine's internal adjustments will take care of them. I suspect that whipovers will be considerably reduced in incidence, because (1) the blades will be heavier and presumably less flexible, and (2) the sensing module will read the vibration of the parry before the touch on valid surface, and prevent the latter from going off. This adjustment is definitely variable: at a couple of demonstrations at the FIE Congress in Paris in May, the speed and reaction was altered between showings, according to witnesses. Thus the machine needs only two lights: red and green. And again, since the blades will not be so flexible, there will be little chance of flicking in an "electronic parry" with the foible, especially sideways, where the cut-sensing module might not "read" it.

It will remain to be seen which system gets the nod, and when. The upper level

politics are doubtless fierce; the designs come from different countries. And maybe, though I wouldn't bet on it, somebody may come up with another version with distinct advantages. Anyway, if there is to be electrical sabre, one would expect to see it tried out at a World Championship before the next Olympics: that means 1983 as a reasonable year to watch for it.



1980 National Championships Awards Presentation-Sabre Individual Peter Westbrook (left), Csaba Elthes (right) photo by Bruce Repko

TIMES, STOPS AND EVASION

by Arthur

All of these are counter attacks, more often than not one-shot and risky. Though they can be done in sabre they apply more practically to the point-thrusting weapons as dealt with here. They are not things one uses against good opponents. (Such adversaries seldom open for them, and then most often as an ambush.) They are effective, and most safely used, against poor opponents — those who have insufficient command of technique or too little experience. There are hordes of these.

First, evasions. These are dodging actions that avoid, hopefully, an attack, and simultaneously stick one's opponent. If a double hit results, right-of-way (the juridical rendition of combat logic) favors the attacker over the evader. Evasion must be complete — the hit must be "one light," or the evader invariably suffers.

Discounting differences in reach, there are three ways to evade: to either side, and downwards. The simplest is the "inquaretata." This has nothing to do with the parry of "quarte," a French term. The Italian translates best as "quarter turn." It is used when one perceives that the final of the attack may be a near miss on one's inside — as when the attacker swings his entire arm to position his point.

To execute the inquaretata simply swing the rear leg to the outside just far enough to turn the body some thirty degrees, no more. Stand up somewhat since the rear toes, off-line from the center of gravity, provide best impetus. Body weight should be shifted to the rear leg simultaneously with the movement, thus rotating one's target aside. At the same time, reach out and pin the attacker. If the body rotates too much, or if the rear arm, swung to assist the movement, turns the shoulders excessively, point control and any subsequent in-fighting will be difficult.

A downward evasion can be achieved simply by squatting, or by the so-called "backward lunge." This kind of evasion is best used against a coupe that has been "telegraphed."

No one needs a description of squatting. If it works, fine. If not, it's a poor position for further action. The name "backward" lunge" is something of a misnomer, be-

cause movement of the upper body is as the blade is really all forward. The favors the term "stop-lunge," but this standard.

The lunge "backward," simply extends rear leg **without** shifting weight to it. The blade out at the same time, the rear arm down and lean forward over front knee, which should also have a little more forward. (The "passata sotto" backward lunge with the rear hand on floor, an all-or-nothing spectacularizer. End in a **balanced** lunge position which favors control of further footwork, for forward, back, or in-fighting in place. Rotate body if it feels right, but not to the point that balance or later movement is still off. Then, if one's point misses, or if the lunge was an ambush, the phrase d'arme must be picked up and continued.

The evasion to the inside (avoiding one's outside) is sometimes taught as reverse inquaretata. In terms of biomechanics this is a difficult movement; puts one in a poor position in event of further combat.

For this evasion the writer prefers to lunge sideways. Epee fencers often do this as an angulated hit to the forearm (Imre "Epee Fencing,"). In foil, it works occasionally if one's opponent cooperates. Avoid excessive exposure of his flank, poor control, and a big telegram. Simply a short lunge in counter-attack with the rear foot directed fifteen to twenty degrees to one's inside of the fencing line. Turn slightly over the stomach; and let the rear hand turn, naturally but minimally, to pronation in a manner to facilitate action. Again, land in a balanced position which the phrase can be continued if necessary.

Warning: Aside from riskiness, actions are habit-forming. Don't practice overmuch.

A stop, stop thrust, is precisely the thrust designed to stop an attack.

Herewith a maestro story: The late Halberstadt fought numerous Mer (student duels with Schlaeger) during university years in pre-WWI Germany. He was cool there then. He was good

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HARRIET KING AN INTERVIEW

by Jill Peacock

Harriet King is a 4 time national champion, a competitor on 4 Olympic teams and 4 Pan American teams.

When I interviewed Harriet King we sat in a restaurant eating lunch. She wore business clothes as did I. The time to converse was limited because we both had to get back to our jobs. And, it was difficult to picture fencing in that context—to remember the feeling of an arm protector hiking up inside your jacket sleeve, to watch you shoe laces while you genuflected waiting for you weapon to be tested, to know the mix of frustrations and victories.

I decided to imagine that we were at an open while she spoke...King was in whites between rounds. We sat on a bench at the sidelines eating some lousy baloney sandwiches that had been sold at a table next to the bout committee.

King was talking about her fencing:

"You always have to assume that something is going to go wrong at a competition. I always had something to fall back on. The important thing is getting a solid technique that is not going to desert you in moments of panic—putting in enough practice so that

you get your lunge down to where you know that it's always going to come out where you want it to."

King will tell of the hours she has dedicated to working out at the gym. Three and four times a week.

"Gym work increases your speed. Most people don't believe that, but it's true. Because, particularly as your leg muscle develops strength, you're able to get off the mark quicker. You're able to seize that fraction of a second in which your eye sees the opening and command your body to perform the action with some hope that it's going to succeed."

In this champion's viewpoint, a bout is composed of two elements: the set up and the execution. And both require sturdy footwork.

"If I try to set you up to make a disengage lunge on you, I'm going to try and maneuver you and maneuver you until I can get you at my perfect distance. To do that requires stamina; it requires a good eye and the confidence to know that when I execute that attack it won't be my execution that screws me up but, maybe, your parry."

The gym was for footwork in King's schedule, and the club was essentially for practicing technique. She did very little bouting at the salle. Bouts were in competition, said King. And the club was for drills, following practice, following drills, following practice.

"Free fencing—that doesn't do it. What it is, is getting a partner and practicing. For at least an hour, just the two of us. I'll do five lunges on her, and she can do five of whatever she wants on me. This is what I used to do which is why my technique didn't desert me in times of competition."

When she did free fence in the club, King said, she "very rarely won."

"If I found out that I was having trouble with a certain action, say a pressure disengage, I would work mainly on that action all night—people would kill me with it."

"But in the club, it didn't matter".

King picked up a foil that was leaning against the bench and used it to illustrate her conversation. When she was talking about parries, the foil angled left or right. If she spoke of a circle disengage, her foil swept a subtle arc.

"What I did, instead of giving my partner a

variety of attacks, I'd make a beat lunge, or a one-two, or a beat disengage. But then I would go back to the pressure disengage, and then a couple of more actions, and then the pressure disengage. Because it's not only learning how to execute it, it's learning WHEN to execute it."

"If you go out and do just pressure disengages all night you're not learning anything."

She put down the foil and talked about one more important factor besides footwork and timing—distance.

"There is one year I finished second at the nationals, and I am prouder of that performance than any I have ever put in. A tendon in my fencing hand was severed in the semi-finals. I hate to quit, so I went on to the finals. I could not parry...I could not make any maneuver except a straight lunge. All I used was distance."

I asked, "So you won on just straight attacks and distance?"

"Mainly distance," she answered. I slid down the bench a few inches.

She continued with the kind of stressed pronunciation that your ear hears in capital letters, "THE MAJORITY OF FENCERS HAVE VERY POOR DISTANCE."

One last pool was finishing up, and we watched the end of a bout. Referring to a national meet in which the director missed her parry riposte and which, she estimates, cost her a 5th national championship, she said.

"I asked my coach about that (the directing), and he said, 'Look, if there's one light, they can't call it against you,' that presupposes a certain level. That's the tough part of it."

King began to discuss directing in general, then directing in the United States and Europe—and the schism between the two.

"We really are removed from the mainstream of fencing," King said. "The method of directing in Europe is different. We still call a parry riposte on an attack that arrives where in Europe you would never get it. If you don't parry adequately and their attack comes directly through—that's it."

She claims that another major difference in international fencing is that Europeans are used to concentrating over long and increasingly difficult competitions. Americans can usually concentrate for one or two rounds when they are in international meets, but, after that, their concentration wavers because they are not used to that kind of in-

tense continuing pressure.

King said, "We might be able to be one good fencer at a time, but when after another come at you, it's difficult."

She elucidated the problem of European fencing using her own experience on the continent as an example.

"In a six-man final I might win my first bouts, then it starts to get to you. I don't fear...I mean just the actual physical sure of having that level thrown at you."

"I think the closest analogy I can make is that it's like driving a car at about 70 miles per hour. You can handle the curves. But, when the field starts to move at 110 miles per hour — and you are moving at 75 — you have a real problem. The pressure on you to maintain that becomes enormous. You might be able to handle it on a straight away, but once you get into a corner you've got to back off because you are not used to handling it."

It's necessary to drive the course over again at 110 miles per hour, "until you can bring yourself to the level of the field."

"This doesn't mean your car is worse than every other one on the track. It means you got to get used to that level."

In the early 1970's when King traveled to Europe the Russian coaches suggested she train with the team. She had a successful tour there, making the finals of two competitions in Hungary and England she noted.

"When I got back to this country I was unused to the competition here. So it took an adjustment to get back into that, and I lost everything I had learned."

"I think what fencing ought to do in this country is take a good hard look at sports, like gymnastics which has moved from relative obscurity to where we are people winning at international levels."

"I think particularly over the last ten years there has been a huge change in fencing...which the United States has not kept up with—except in one or two special instances. The only way to do that is to go to the source. When the United States was weak in swimming, which was a long time ago, they sent away kids to Australia to learn the techniques down. And they learned."

"We have to develop a consistent philosophy and method of teaching in